

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 21, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
Town of Yucca Valley
Community Center – Yucca Room
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Ellen Way at 10:08 a.m. on June 21, 2012 at the Town of Yucca Valley, California.

Roll Call (Board Members Only)

Board Members Present:

Buford Crites, Tom Davis, Jeff Hays, Edward Muzik, Ellen Way.

The Board Secretary stated that a quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Jose Angel, Terry Barnes, Mary Castañeda, Liann Chavez, Jose Cortez, Kai Dunn, Robert Perdue, Jon Rokke, Hilda Vasquez, Doug Wylie

Others Present:

Thomas Faus, Joshua Tree
Miguel Figueroa, Calexico New River Committee
Joseph Glowitz, Valley Sanitary
Sarann Graham, Hi-Desert Water District
Mickey Luckman, Joshua Basin Water District
James Maughn, SWRCB, Division of Financial Assurance
Mark Nuaimi, Town of Yucca Valley
Ivory Reyburn, Coachella Valley Water District
Tim Roberts, SCSD
Tami Roleff, KCDZ FM
Dawn Rowe, Town of Yucca Valley
Robert L. Shinaver,
Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District
Margo Sturges, Citizens for Change and Responsible Government
Courtney Vaughn, Hi-Desert Star
Tom Vandenberg, State Water Board, Office of the Chief Counsel

MINUTES

1. Minutes of May 17, 2012 Board Meeting

MOTION: Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be adopted.

PUBLIC FORUM

2. No comments from the public.

UNCONTESTED NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMITS AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

3. R7-2012-0002 Waste Discharge Requirements for **United States Marine Corps**, Owner/Operator, Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility; Twentynine Palms – San Bernardino County

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0002 be adopted.

4. R7-2012-0034 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Salton Community Services District**, Owner/Operator, Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility; Salton City – Imperial County

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0034 be adopted.

5. R7-2012-0035 Waste Discharge Requirements for **Salton Community Services District**, Owner/Operator, Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility; Salton City – Imperial County

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0035 be adopted with errata.

6. R7-2012-0037 Waste Discharge Requirements for California Department of Transportation, owner/operator, **Cactus City Safety Roadside Rest Area Onsite Wastewater Treatment System**, East of Indio – Riverside County

MOTION: R7-2011-0037 was pulled and is to be considered at a future Board Meeting.

7. R7-2012-0039 Rescissions of Waste Discharge Requirements, **Mesquite Lake Resource Recovery**, Imperial – Imperial County; **Parker Dam and Power Plant Drinking Water Facility**, Parker Dam – San Bernardino County

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0039 be adopted.

ENFORCEMENT

8. R7-2012-0042 Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2012-0042 in the Matter of **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Centinela State Prison**, Imperial – Imperial County

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0042 be adopted.

9. R7-2012-0043 Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R7-2012-0043, Issued To **Escher Oil Company**, Coachella – Riverside County

MOTION: Tom Davis moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2012-0043 be adopted with errata.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Informational Update on Basin Plan Priority Activities — JR

Jon Rokke reported that Basin Planning staff:

- Is completing two amendments regarding corrections and updates to the basin plan. Completion of both amendments is expected by early 2013;
- Is anticipating working on a basin plan amendment to address septic systems in Joshua Tree, once a USGS study has been finalized by Joshua Basin Water District;
- Is implementing the State Board's Recycled Water Policy, which requires stakeholders to prepare Salt & Nutrient Management Plans for groundwater basins statewide by 2014;
- Is implementing the surface water ambient monitoring program (SWAMP) for the region. The program includes coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Game to conduct a fish tissue study to investigate legacy pesticides in water and fish along agricultural drains and rivers tributary to the Salton Sea. Staff has also installed the first of four remote monitoring stations at the New River outlet to the Salton Sea. A real time demonstration will be given to the Board in September. Also in conjunction

with SWAMP, staff is coordinating with Fish and Game to conduct a bioassessment study in 2014 and Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs) to determine the cause of toxicity observed at several Salton Sea sampling locations; and

- Is conducting the 2012 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan as mandated by both state and federal law. Staff anticipates circulating the list of possible changes for public comment in the fall of 2012, with a final list of changes for Board consideration of adoption in late 2012 or early 2013.

Mr. Rokke added that:

- The Yucca Valley Septic Prohibition was approved by the California Office of Administrative Law in April 2012 and thus, is now in effect. The Regulatory Unit headed by RB 7 Section Chief Doug Wylie will implement and enforce the amendment;
- Following the State Board remand of the Conditional Prohibition of Ag Discharges in Palo Verde in January 2012, the Regulatory Unit began drafting a Waiver of WDRs in lieu of the conditional prohibition for Palo Verde. Staff anticipates completing the draft Waiver and presenting it to the Board for consideration of adoption before December 2012. Staff is also proposing to draft waivers for Ag discharges in Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and other areas after finishing the waiver for Palo Verde; and
- The TMDL Unit is finalizing the processing of the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel Bacterial Indicator.

Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, informed the Regional Board that he intends to reactivate staff work on a Basin Plan amendment to address critical flows and beneficial uses of the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.

11. Informational Update on Noncompliance with WDRs or Applicable Statutory or Regulatory Requirements – DW

Doug Wylie provided an Informational Enforcement Update on Noncompliance with Waste Discharge Requirements or Applicable Statutory or Regulatory Requirements.

12. Informational Update on Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition – DW

Sarann Graham, President of the High Desert Water Agency Board of Directors, updated the Regional Board Members on the Agency's progress on designing and financing a Wastewater Project to comply with the Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition. Ms. Graham described the challenges faced by a small community of 20,000 with an aging, economically disadvantaged population.

Assistant Deputy Director of the SWRCB Division of Financial Assurance, James Maughn, described procedures for evaluating funding applications for publicly owned wastewater projects submitted to the SWRCB. Doug Wylie noted that 7,800 copies of a notification letter concerning final approval of the Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition have been distributed by Regional Board staff to the community and property owners.

Mark Nuaimi, Yucca Valley Town Manager, stated the Town is working closely with the Hi-Desert Water District in pursuing community support for the Project. Mr. Nuaimi pointed out the need for innovative financing that will not hinder economic development.

13. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities — TV

(See hand-out)

14. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report — RP & JLA

Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, informed the Board that in May 2012 he met with Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Farm Bureau executive staff to discuss the State Board remand of the Conditional Prohibition for Palo Verde.

Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, informed the Board of ongoing discussions with Pacific Gas and Electric concerning source water for the implementation of the preferred cleanup remedy for approximately 25 tons of Hexavalent Chromium (Cr⁺⁶) historically released into the groundwater at PG&E's Topock Compressor Station, south of Needles, adjacent to the Colorado River.

Additionally, the Executive Officer reported the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy (OWTS), "The Septic Tank Policy," was adopted by the SWRCB on June 19, 2012, and now awaits final approval by the California Office of Administrative Law.

15. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

16. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report — EW

No report from Chair.

CLOSED SESSION

17. At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to meet in closed session to consider evidence received in an adjudicatory hearing and deliberate on a decision to be reached based on that evidence [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(c)(3)]; to discuss significant exposure to litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(i)]; to discuss whether to initiate litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C)(i)]; or to discuss initiated litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)]. Discussion of litigation is within the attorney-client privilege and may be held in closed session [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)].

No closed session items were discussed.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012, 9:00 A.M., IN PALM DESERT.

Adjournment: 11:56 a.m.

MOTION: Buford Crites moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.